RIVERS AND FLOODS

[River and Flood Division, MERRILL BERNARD in charge]

By Thomas S. Southwick

Precipitation during December 1938 was generally less than normal except in New England, Michigan, and the Southwestern States. Floods were minor and were confined to the extreme eastern and western parts of the

country.

Moderate to heavy rains over the Coast Range in northern California and Oregon the first three days of the month caused high stages in that region. Flood stages were reached only on the Santiam River in Oregon and on the Eel River in northern California on the 3d. Flooding on the former was slight and no damage resulted; on the Eel River damage is estimated at \$19,000.

The abnormal snowfall in the last week of November over the Northeast, followed by above-normal temperatures and moderate rains caused threatening stages during the first week of December. Floods occurred on the Pemigewasset, Merrimack, and Connecticut Rivers in New England, the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers in New York, and the Lackawaxen River in Pennsylvania during the period December 6 to 11. None of the floods was serious.

The longest period above flood stage was at Hartford, Conn., where the Connecticut River went above flood stage on the 7th and remained until December 13. crest was on the 8th, with a stage of 19.1, or 3.1 feet above flood stage. The only damage reported was in the vicinity of Hartford and was confined to shipping which was

delayed.

In the Susquehanna River basin there were two periods of high stages; from the 5th to the 8th and from the 10th to the 13th of December. The Susquehanna River went above flood stage during both periods, and during the latter rise, the Chenango River went above flood stage. Damage on the Susquehanna was reported as amounting to \$700, and on the Chenango, \$375. It is estimated that \$8,200 was saved because of the Weather Bureau's warnings.

The Lackawaxen River went 2 feet over flood stage on December 6th, when the melting of ice caused a rapid rise.

No damage was reported.

Table of flood stages during December 1938 [All dates in December]

River and station	Flood	Above stages—		Crest	
	stage	From- To	то—	Stage	Date
Merrimack: Concord, N. H	16 6 8 8 12	7 7 7 6 10 10 10 6 10 29 28	7 7 13 6 10 11 8 13 8 13 29 28	Feet 12.7 22.1 19.1 8.1 8.3 8.6 15.3 15.0 15.6 21.9 14.6	7 7 8 6 6 10 11 6 6 11 29 28
Columbia Basin Santiam: Jefferson, Oreg	10	3	3	10. 3	3

Locally heavy rains in the Carolinas on December 27 caused small rises on the Broad and Cape Fear Rivers on the 28th and 29th, respectively. There was no damage

A report on the September 1938 flood on the Connecticut River will be in an early issue of the Monthly WEATHER REVIEW.

ESTIMATED FLOOD LOSSES DURING 1937 1

The estimated flood losses in the United States during 1937 were the greatest of any year of which the Weather Bureau has records, and amounted to \$440,739,529 and 157 lives lost. Of this total, the greater part, \$417,685,557 and 137 deaths, was caused by the unprecedented flood in the Ohio and lower Mississippi Valleys during January and February and is the greatest loss of record from any one single major flood. A comparative table of flood losses for a few of the greatest individual floods of recent years follows:

Month and year	Region	Damage	Lives lost
January-February 1937	Ohio and lower Mississippi	\$417, 685, 557	137
Spring 1927		284, 117, 631	313
March 1936		1 270, 000, 000	107
March 1913		154, 000, 000	467

Incomplete.

The following tables are statements of estimated flood losses, and savings effected by Weather Bureau flood warnings in the year 1937.

Statement of estimated tangible flood losses during January-February flood in Ohio and lower Mississippi Basins

	Monetary loss !	Lives lost *
Ohio Basin:	417 400 000	••
Illinois	\$17, 400, 000	10
Indiana	55, 000, 000	. 9
Ohio	88, 300, 000	10
Pennsylvania	4, 700, 000	0
West Virginia	21,000,000 [6
Kentucky	219, 800, 000	22
Tennessee	5, 000, 000	8
Total	411, 200, 000	65
Lower Mississippi Basin	6, 485, 557	72
Grand total	417, 685, 557	137

From data furnished by the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army.
 From vital statistics of the American Red Cross.

SANDUSKY RIVER IN OHIO \$20,000 Tangible property totally or partially destroyed..... 50, 000 560, 000 Matured crops_____ Prospective crops_____ Livestock and other movable farm property__ 49, 000 Suspension of business, including wages of employees_ 11, 500

ST. LAWRENCE DRAINAGE

690, 500 Total_____

ATLANTIC SLOPE DRAINAGE TIOUGHNIOGA RIVER IN NEW YORK Suspension of business, including wages of employees_ 600 CHENANGO RIVER IN NEW YORK Tangible property, totally or partially destroyed____ 380 200 Matured crops___ Suspension of business, including wages of employees_ 625

¹ Exclusive of losses in January-February flood in the Ohio and lower Mississippi

JUNIATA RIVER IN PENNSYLVANIA		BROAD RIVER IN SOUTH CAROLINA	
Tangible property, totally or partially destroyed Prospective crops Livestock and other movable farm property	\$190, 000 5, 000	Matured cropsProspective crops	\$300 2, 700
Suspension of business, including wages of employees.	40, 200 13, 400	CONGAREE RIVER IN SOUTH CAROLINA	
SUSQUEHANNA RIVER IN NEW YORK		Prospective crops	1, 000
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	200 100	SANTEE RIVER IN SOUTH CAROLINA	
Matured crops	675	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Prospective crops Livestock and other movable farm property	75 140
SUSQUEHANNA RIVER IN PENNSYLVANIA		Livestock and other movable farm property	400
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Prospective crops	595, 000 50, 000	Suspension of business, including wages of employees_ SAVANNAH AND OGEECHEE RIVERS IN	18, 200
PATUXENT RIVER AND CHESAPEAKE BAY		GEORGIA	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops Prospective crops Livestock and other movable farm property	33, 382 175 4, 650 400	Tangible property totally or partially destroyedLivestock and other movable farm propertySuspension of business, including wages of employees.	550 800 8, 900
POTOMAC RIVER	•	ALTAMAHA RIVER SYSTEM IN GEORGIA	1 050
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	1, 170, 335	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops Prospective crops	1, 250 1, 000
Matured crops Prospective crops Livestock and other movable farm property	13, 100 133, 725 24, 390	Prospective cropsLivestock and other movable farm propertySuspension of business, including wages of employees_	19, 000 10, 800 28, 000
RAPPAHANNOCK AND YORK RIVERS IN	,	Total	3, 679, 291
VIRGINIA		=	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops	350, 363 2, 228	East Gulf of Mexico Drainage	
Prospective cropsLivestock and other movable farm property	54, 448 6, 000	APALACHICOLA RIVER IN FLORIDA	
JAMES RIVER IN VIRGINIA	9, 000	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	8, 500 1, 500
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	502, 000	Prospective cropsSuspension of business, including wages of employees_	11, 000
	002, 000	PEA RIVER IN ALABAMA	
ROANOKE RIVER IN VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA		Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	7, 500
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops	49, 500 61, 150	Matured cropsSuspension of business, including wages of employees_	9, 000 3, 500
Prospective cropsLivestock and other movable farm property	22, 500 2, 800	CHOCTAWHATCHEE RIVER IN ALABAMA	. *
Suspension of business, including wages of employees	135, 650	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	16, 000
NEUSE RIVER IN NORTH CAROLINA		Matured crops Prospective crops	31, 000 7, 220
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops	3, 200 600	Supsension of business, including wages of employees_	300
Prospective crops Livestock and other movable farm property	5, 500 750	CONNECUH RIVER IN ALABAMA	
Suspension of business, including wages of employees_	13, 000	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops	8, 000 2, 100
TAR RIVER IN NORTH CAROLINA		Prospective cropsLivestock and other movable farm property	10, 000 1, 250
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops.	1, 650 500	Suspension of business, including wages of employees_	2, 200
Prospective cropsLivestock and other movable farm property	4, 000 300	ALABAMA RIVER IN ALABAMA	
Suspension of business, including wages of employees	7, 000	Livestock and other movable farm property	3, 000
CAPE FEAR RIVER IN NORTH CAROLINA		BLACK WARRIOR AND TOMBIGBEE RIVER IN AL	ABAMA
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Prospective crops	$rac{ ext{slight}}{1,000}$	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Prospective crops	17, 260 97, 750
Prospective cropsSuspension of business, including wages of employees	8, 500	Prospective cropsLivestock and other movable farm propertySuspension of business, including wages of employees_	7, 900 65, 000
PEEDEE RIVER IN SOUTH CAROLINA			
Prospective cropsSuspension of business, including wages of employees_	15, 000 14, 500	PASCAGOULA RIVER IN MISSISSIPPI Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	400
SALUDA RIVER IN SOUTH CAROLINA		Prospective cropsLivestock and other movable farm property	100 400
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops	25, 000 12, 500	Suspension of business, including wages of employees.	9, 500
Prospective crops	500	PEARL RIVER IN MISSISSIPPI	
CATAWBA-WATERBE RIVERS IN	•	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Livestock and other movable farm property	25, 000
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	1, 000	Suspension of business, including wages of employees	2, 000 10, 200
Matured crops Prospective crops	3, 000 5, 000	Total	357, 580
Suspension of business, including wages of employees_	500		

UPPER MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM		REPUBLICAN RIVER IN KANSAS	
REDWOOD RIVER IN MINNESOTA		Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	\$4,000
Tangible property totally or partially destroyedLivestock and other movable farm property	\$6,000 1,000	GRAND RIVER IN IOWA	
ROCK RIVER IN ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN	2, 000	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	3, 000
	210 000	GRAND RIVER IN MISSOURI	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops	310, 282 24, 610 297, 260 2, 500	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Prospective crops	3, 200 4, 000
Suspension of business including wages of employees.	90, 163	OSAGE RIVER IN MISSOURI	
GALENA RIVER IN ILLINOIS Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	150, 000	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops	5, 000 20, 500
MAQUOKETA AND WAPSIPINNICON RIVERS IN IOV	,	Prospective crops Livestock and other movable farm property Suspension of business, including wages of employees_	9, 000 5, 000 6, 000
		bases of basiness, including wages of employees.	0, 000
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Livestock and other movable farm property Suspension of business, including wages of employees_	150, 000 1, 000 3, 000	MISSOURI RIVER Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	3, 000
IOWA AND CEDAR RIVERS IN IOWA		Matured cropsProspective cropsLivestock and other movable farm property	21, 500 105, 500
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops	10, 000 300	Livestock and other movable farm property Total	1, 125
Suspension of business, including wages of employees.	1, 900 1, 100	=	1, 307, 800
	-,	Ohio Basin	
DES MOINES RIVER IN IOWA	0	ALLEGHENY RIVER IN PENNSYLVANIA	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops	25, 750 1, 250	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops	240, 000 1, 000
Prospective crops Livestock and other movable farm property	6, 450 6, 300	Prospective crops	30, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees	5, 340	Livestock and other movable farm property Suspension of business, including wages of employees_	1, 500 80, 000
ILLINOIS RIVER IN ILLINOIS	07.000	MONONGAHELA RIVER IN PENNSYLVANIA	
Prospective crops	25, 000	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops	163, 500 50, 000
Matured crops	8, 000	Prospective cropsSuspension of business, including wages of employees_	12, 000 652, 400
Total	1, 127, 205	MUSKINGUM RIVER IN OHIO	
		Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	135, 000
Missouri Basin beaverhead river in montana		Matured crops	57, 000 512, 000
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	4, 000	Livestock and other movable farm propertySuspension of business, including wages of employees_	500 8, 000
TELLOWSTONE BIVER AT BILLINGS, MONT.		TIMES W VANAMINA DIVING IN WINCE	
Total	750, 000	LITTLE KANAWHA RIVER IN WEST VIRGINIA	
CHEYENNE RIVER IN SOUTH DAKOTA		Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops	10, 000 2, 000
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	140, 535	Prospective crops	7, 000 1, 000
BELLE FOURCHE AND WHITE RIVERS IN			2, 000
SOUTH DAKOTA	22 200	SCIOTO RIVER IN OHIO	r 000
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops Prospective crops	66, 300 15, 000 40, 000	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Prospective crops	5, 000 95, 000
•	40, 000	WEST FORK OF WHITE RIVER IN INDIANA	
BIG SIOUX RIVER IN IOWA		Matured crops	300
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Matured crops	78, 000 1, 500	WHITE RIVER IN INDIANA	
Prospective cropsLivestock and other movable farm property	10, 000 3, 300	Matured crops	1, 600
Suspension of business, including wages of employees.	12, 000	Prospective cropsSuspension of business, including wages of employees_	5, 000 500
FLOYD RIVER IN IOWA		WABASH RIVER IN INDIANA	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	30, 000 14, 000	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	200
Prospective cropsLivestock and other movable farm property	500	Prospective crops	7, 000 300
SOLOMON RIVER IN KANSAS		PRENCH BROAD RIVER IN NORTH	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	1, 000 1, 000	CAROLINA	1 000
Matured cropsProspective crops	10, 000	Matured cropsProspective crops	1, 000 2, 500

NORTH FORK OF HOLSTON RIVER IN		RED BASIN	
Matured crops	\$1, 850	OUACHITA RIVER IN ARKANSAS	
OHIO RIVER (PITTSBURGH DISTRICT)	·	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Livestock and other movable farm property	\$2, 500 2, 900
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	245, 000 115, 000	Suspension of business, including wages of employees.	7, 700
Prospective cropsLivestock and other movable farm property	2, 000	SULPHUR RIVER IN TEXAS	
Suspension of business, including wages of employees_	183, 326	Tangible property, totally or partially destroyed	250
OHIO RIVER (EVANSVILLE DISTRICT)		Suspension of business, including wages of employees_	
Tangible property Prospective crops	2, 000 65, 000	Total	24, 850
Livetock and other movable farm propertySuspension of business, including wages of employees_	1, 000 2, 000	LOWER MISSISSIPPI BASIN	
	2, 000	MISSISSIPPI RIVER	
OHIO RIVER (CAIRO DISTRICT)		Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	8, 000
Tangible property Prospective crops	1, 500 31, 200	Prospective cropsLivestock and other movable farm property	150, 000 4, 000
Livestock and other movable farm property	250	Suspension of business, including wages of employees_	10, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees.	5, 450	Total	172, 000
Total	2, 736, 876	•	
WHITE BASIN		WEST GULF OF MEXICO	
BLACK RIVER IN MISSOURI		TRINITY RIVER IN TEXAS	
Tangible property Prospective crops	10, 200 1, 000	Livestock and other movable farm property	5, 000
Livestock and other movable farm propertySuspension of business, including wages of employees_	2, 000 50, 150	PECOS RIVER IN NEW MEXICO	
	30, 130	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	214, 000
BLACK RIVER IN ARKANSAS Prospective crops	1, 000	Matured crops	65, 500
•	•	Prospective cropsLivestock and other movable farm property	700, 000 6, 500
WHITE RIVER IN MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS		Suspension of business, including wages of employees.	1, 600
Tangible property	26, 000 23, 400	RIO GRANDE IN NEW MEXICO	
Livestock and other movable farm property Suspension of business, including wages of employees.	2, 000 31, 000	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	310, 000
		Matured cropsProspective crops	60, 000 450, 000
Total	146, 750	Livestock and other movable farm property	10, 500
ARKANSAS BASIN		Suspension of business, including wages of employees.	7, 000
CIMARRON RIVER IN OKLAHOMA		Total	1, 830, 100
Prospective crops	15, 000	GULF OF CALIFORNIA DRAINAGE	
NINNESCAH RIVER IN KANSAS		Colobado Basin	
Tangible property	150, 000 6, 000	GUNNISON RIVER IN COLORADO	
Prospective crops	12, 000	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	108, 000
NEOSHO RIVER IN KANSAS		Matured cropsProspective crops	1, 000 100, 000
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	16, 500	Livestock and other movable farm property	2, 000
Matured crops	15, 000	WILLIAMS RIVER IN ARIZONA	
Prospective cropsLivestock or other movable farm property	25, 000 10, 000	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	18, 000
NORTH CANADIAN RIVER IN		Suspension of business, including wages of employees.	135
OKLAHOMA		GILA RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES IN ARIZONA	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.	253, 000	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	28, 750
Matured cropsProspective crops	9, 800 68, 600	Prospective crops	6, 500
Livestock and other movable farm property	1, 500 3, 200	Total	264, 385
CANADIAN RIVER IN NEW MEXICO	.,	PACIFIC SLOPE DRAINAGE	
•	1, 500	SAN JOAQUIN RIVER IN CALIFORNIA	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed Suspension of business, including wages of employees.	5, 300	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	651, 650
CANADIAN RIVER IN OKLAHOMA		Prospective crops	1, 180, 000
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	520, 000	Suspension of business, including wages of employees_	5, 000
Matured cropsProspective crops	74, 100 186, 500	SACRAMENTO RIVER IN CALIFORNIA	
Livestock and other movable farm property	3, 200	Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	4, 980, 900
Suspension of business, including wages of employees	35, 000	Matured cropsProspective crops	575, 350 842, 000
Total	1, 411, 200	Livestock and other movable farm property Suspension of business, including wages of employees.	773, 800 99, 200

WILLAMETTE RIVER IN OREGON		OHIO BASIN	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed	\$80, 300	Allegheny River	\$230,000
Matured crops	7, 000	Monongahela River	235, 000
Prospective crops	12, 000	Muskingum River	100, 000
Livestock and other movable farm property	3, 075	West Fork of White River	64, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees_	35, 000	East Fork of White River	55, 000
purposed of a defined instrument with the contract of the cont		White River in Indiana	558, 000
Total	9, 245, 275	Wabash River	526, 000
		Cumberland River	128, 600
Total, exlusive of Ohio-Mississippi flood	23, 053, 972	French Broad River	1, 000
Total loss in Ohio River Basin, January-February	411, 200, 000	Tennessee River	53, 00 0
Total loss in lower Mississippi Basin, January-Febru-	, ,	Ohio River and minor tributaries	55, 532, 850
ary	6, 485, 557		
		Total	57, 483, 450
Grand total	440, 739, 529	WHITE BASIN	
The state of the s	1007	WHITE BASIN	
Estimated savings from flood warnings during	1957	Black River in Missouri	6, 000
Atlantic Slope Drainage		Black River in Arkansas	15, 000
IIIDMIIIO DDOID DMIIMIGD		White River in Arkansas	642, 000
Tioughnioga River in New York	\$1, 500	<u> </u>	
Chenango River in New York	3, 620	Total	663, 000
Susquehanna River	1, 500		•
Roanoke River	2 55, 000	ARKANSAS BASIN	
Tar River in North Carolina	8, 000	Cimarron River	12, 000
Neuse River in North Carolina	26, 500	Ninnescah River in Kansas	5, 500
Cape Fear River in North Carolina	22,500	Neosho River	15, 000
Peedee River in South Carolina		North Canadian River	6,000
Saluda River in South Carolina		Canadian River	105, 500
Broad River in South Carolina		Petit Jean River	500
Congaree River in South Carolina		Arkansas River	10, 000
Catawba-Wateree River		-	
Santee River		Total	154, 500
Savannah and Ogeechee Rivers		RED BASIN	•
Altamaha River	86, 000	Ouachita River	135, 000
		Sulphur River	7, 100
Total		Red River	7, 500
East Gulf of Mexico Drainage		Total	149, 600
		10/41	110, 000
Apalachicola River	4, 000	LOWER MISSISSIPPI BASIN	•
Conecuh River	2, 000		
Alabama River		Mississippi River and minor tributaries	3, 021, 500
Black Warrior-Tombigbee River	79, 000		
Pascagoula River	15, 300	Total for Mississippi system	61, 698, 050
Pearl River	22, 500	=	
m	120,000	WEST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE	15 000
Total	130, 800	Trinity River	15, 000 155, 000
		Pecos River in New Mexico	
Mississippi System		Rio Grande in New Mexico	165, 000
UPPER MISSISSIPPI BASIN		Total	335, 000
D. J. Diamie Illinois and Wissensin	30, 000	=	
Rock River in Illinois and Wisconsin		D. serve Stone Dr. syr. or	
Maquoketa and Wapsipinnicon Rivers in Iowa	5, 000 2, 500	PACIFIC SLOPE DRAINAGE	
Iowa and Cedar Rivers in Iowa		SACRAMENTO BASIN	
Des Moines River	117,000	Sacramento River	2, 283, 550
Total	154, 500		_, ,
10001	101,000	COLUMBIA BASIN	
MISSOURI BASIN		Willamette River	35, 150
Din Ciarra Divon	10, 000	Total Pacific Slope Drainage	2, 318, 700
Big Sioux River		Total racine prope Dramage	2, 010, 100
Osage River	10, 000	Grand Total	65, 055, 670
Missouri River	24, 000		
		Flood losses and savings for 1938 will be pub	lished in an
Total	71, 500	early issue.	
	,	•	•

WEATHER ON THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS

[The Marine Division, WILLIS E. HURD, acting in charge]

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, DECEMBER 1938 By H. C. Hunter

Atmospheric pressure.—The pressure averages of December were below normal over more than half of the North Atlantic, though slightly above over some southeastern areas and from the vicinity of the Azores to waters near Newfoundland and eastern Canada. The northeastern portion of the ocean showed the largest deficiencies of pressure, but none of the selected stations had an

unusually large departure for a winter month, -0.16 inch being the greatest, at Julianehaab, Greenland, and Volencia Iroland

Valencia, Ireland.

During the first 17 days pressure was for the most part below normal, and often much below, over northeastern and north-central regions. Thereafter for a few days, centering about the 20th, low pressure prevailed over a belt in lower latitudes from Bermuda to southwestern Europe.